

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 259994

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ELAB, MI

SUBJECT: AALC, CY-1975 PROJECT PROPOSALS

REF: BLANTYRE 1542

1. DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED IN GENERAL TERMS WITH AALC, EMBASSY'S VIEWS IN REGARD TO FURTHER ACTIVITIES OF AALC WITH MTUC IN MALAWI.

2. MINISTER DELEZA'S COMMENTS TO YOU NOT WITHSTANDING, AALC HAS AS YET RECEIVED NO INDICATION FROM GOM OR MALAWI TRADE UNION MOVEMENT OF ANY OPPOSITION TO CONTINUATION AALC'S PROGRAM. O'FARRELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AALC, STATED THAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TOP LEVEL LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS SHOWED, CONTRARY TO DELEZA'S ASSERTIONS, HIGH DEGREE OF INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR AALC'S PROGRAM. AALC SAYS THAT IF GOM WISHES TO TERMINATE AALC/MTUC AGREEMENT IT SHOULD SO INFORM MTUC. UNTIL THAT TIME AALC WOULD PLAN CONTINUE ITS COOPERATION WITH MTUC.

3. BASED ON HIS OWN RECENT EXPERIENCE IN MALAWI, O'FARRELL FINDS IT DIFFICULT BELIEVE THAT MINISTER DELEZA IS SPEAKING
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ON BEHALF OF THE GOM OR WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF PRESIDENT BANDA. MINISTER DELEZA ACCORDING TO O'FARRELL IS KNOWN TO BE IN PERSONAL AND POLITICAL COMPETITION WITH LIABUNYA, PRESIDENT OF MTUC.

4. COMMENT: AALC IS APPRECIATIVE OF EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT AND AGREES THAT CAUTION IS IMPORTANT IN AALC'S ACTIVITIES WITH MTUC. UNTIL SITUATION IS CLARIFIED, AALC WOULD NOT PLAN EXPAND ITS ACTIVITIES IN MALAWI BUT BELIEVES THERE IS MERIT IN KEEPING THE PROGRAM AT THE PRESENT LEVEL. IN ANY CASE, AALC WOULD NOT WANT TAKE INITIATIVE IN TERMINATING PROGRAM, BELEIVING THAT ACTION SHOULD PROPERLY COME FROM GOM AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL IF DELEZA'S REMARKS ACCURATELY REFLECT BANDA POLICY. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT UNTIL GOM OFFICIALLY TERMINATES AALC/MTUC COOPERATION, PROGRAM SHOULD BE CARRIED ON IN NORMAL FASHION. AS AID NOW PREPARING CY-75 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON THIS COURSE OF ACTION.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD REPORT PROMPTLY ANY FURTHER INDICATIONS GOM ATTITUDE, PARTICULARLY ANY FROM SOURCES INDEPENDENT OF DELEZA. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT, OF COURSE, TAKE POSITION ON MATTER WITH GOM. INGERSOLL

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